
**Meeting of Executive Member for Children and
Young People's Services and Advisory Panel**

12 March 2009

Report of the Director of Learning, Culture and Children's Services

Directorate Service Plans: 2009/2010

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Service Plans for council services that are wholly or partially funded from the children's services budget.

Background

2. Across the council, Directorates have been completing Service Plans and then seeking their approval at their respective Executive Member(s) and Advisory Panel (EMAP) meetings. The plans follow a standard template and take the reader through stages of description, analysis and review, and identification of key priorities for the coming year. The process of completion of the plans is essential to both the quality and likely impact of the final documents. Great store is placed within this Directorate on:
 - ensuring that the plans accurately reflect key strategic drivers impacting upon the service and that their production reflects analysis across the service and its partners on historic performance/emerging priorities;
 - insisting that the plans are closely aligned with the priorities identified in the Corporate Strategy and the Children and Young People's Plan for the city;
 - the plans being produced through a process which engages the whole service and facilitates the process where more detailed operational work plans/personal development plans can be produced;
 - ensuring that the actions in the plan are challenging but deliverable and expressed in a way that facilitates forthcoming monitoring arrangements.
3. In 2008/9 we responded to concerns about the length and complexity of some of the service plans that were previously submitted to the Executive Members and the difficulties that this presented in monitoring progress during the year. We moved to a system of 5 and not the 16 Service Plans previously produced. The new plans reflected the responsibilities of each of the Asst Directors. In our assessment this approach supported more concise, more focused and more strategic

reporting on progress and an approach we will therefore be repeating into 2009/10. The Plans and monitoring reports in respect of those plans will continue to focus on three things: the key strategic actions identified in the service plan, financial performance and performance against key indicators.

4. EMAP members will also be aware that The Children Act 2004 requires local authorities to produce a Children and Young People's Plan. This EMAP has been involved in the consultation process led by the YorOK Board which will see a new *Children and Young People's Plan: 2009 - 2012* launched on the 1st April 2009. The priorities in the new Plan are not only fully reflected in but create an important organisational structure for the departmental service plans. The Plans are also crucially influenced by and contribute significantly to the priorities of the council as agreed in the Corporate Strategy and to the wider Community Strategy of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).
5. You will see from the Service Plans that we have ensured that all relevant children and young peoples indicators in the National Indicator Set have both a home and therefore clarity on leadership in our plans. At this stage the performance indicator set has certain inevitable omissions partly to do with delays in receiving amended definitions nationally and partly as a result of year end performance being awaited before key targets for forthcoming years are set.

Options

6. These plans have been produced by service managers in response to the strategic plans for the authority. The Executive Members can modify service plans within the planning framework for the authority.

Analysis

7. As described above the plans themselves have been produced through a process of detailed analysis and every effort has been made to ensure strategic coherence with corporate, community, partner and national priorities.

Corporate Priorities

8. In particular the service plans take particular account of the need identified in our current corporate strategy:
 - To increase people's knowledge and skills to improve future employment prospects',
 - To improve the health and lifestyles of people in York, in particular among people whose levels of health are the poorest',
 - To improve the life chances of the most disadvantaged and disaffected children, young people and families in York.

The Plans are also consistent with the values and direction statements within the corporate strategy. The new Corporate Strategy for the authority is to be based around the contribution of the council to achieving the aspirations contained in the overarching Local Strategic Partnership led Community Strategy. The strong contribution of YorOK and alignment of the Children and Young People's Plan to the Community Strategy will ensure a coherence between these Service Plans and the new Corporate Strategy.

Implications

Financial

9. Service Plans have been produced on a timescale that ensures they reflect the budget settlement for 2009/10.

Human Resources (HR)

10. Whilst there are no direct implications for HR arising from this report, it should be noted that progress against all of these plans is dependent upon the people at all levels within the service. As a result delivery against the priorities in the plan can be affected positively or adversely by HR factors.

Equalities

11. There are no specific implications in this report but again the service plans attached have been influenced by a recognition of the corporate commitment to improvement in this area

Legal

12. There is no statutory requirement for the production of service plans, though there is a strong expectation by District Audit and by inspection regimes such as Ofsted that they will be produced in order to support effective Performance Management.

Crime and Disorder/ Information Technology /Property

13. Whilst there are no specific implications for these categories of this covering report the reader will identify again that there are considerable activity and progress expected in these service plans which will carry significance for these categories.

Risk Management

14. The risk to the authority of not maintaining service plans is that the service will lack any framework for agreeing and monitoring progress against its agreed and approved priorities. Without such a framework

performance of the service would be adversely impacted upon with subsequent operational, reputation and financial risks.

Recommendations

15. The Executive Member is recommended to approve the Service Plans for 2009/10 attached to this report:

Reason: In order to ensure that managers in LCCS are in a position to implement the strategic priorities for the directorate.

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Chief Officer Responsible for the report:
Peter Dwyer
Director of Learning, Culture and Children's Services

Report Approved **Date** 25 February 2009

Peter Dwyer
Director of Learning, Culture and Children's Services

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Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Implication ie Financial
Name
Title
Tel No.

Implication ie Legal
Name
Title
Tel No.

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Annexes: Service Plans (5)